

Request for Proposals
Habitat Conservation Plan Piping Plover Conservation Grants
November 1, 2017

The Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program of the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife (MassWildlife) is seeking proposals for conservation projects to benefit piping plovers in Massachusetts. Proposals must fit into one of four categories:

1. Selective predator management
2. Increased law enforcement to improve management of pets and other threats
3. Strategic education and outreach
4. Experimental habitat enhancement (e.g., vegetation management)

Although the focus of the program is on piping plovers, projects also benefiting breeding least terns (and other tern spp.) may receive priority consideration. Although matching funds are not required, projects proposing match may receive priority consideration. MassWildlife anticipates approximately \$20,000 available for projects to be carried out *during 2018*. Funding requests should not exceed \$10,000, and individual grant awards are expected to generally range from \$2,000 to \$8,000. Although this program is being administered by MassWildlife, funding is being provided by HCP participants as set forth in the [Massachusetts Piping Plover Habitat Conservation Plan](#).

Selective Predator Management

Proposed projects must include a (1) detailed scope of work and budget prepared by a qualified predator management expert; (2) list and justification of species to be targeted based on observations of predator activity in prior years; (3) justification of the proposed level of effort based on observations of predator activity in prior years and other factors; (4) estimate of number of piping plover and least tern breeding pairs to benefit from the proposed work based on population sizes in prior years (please include plover and tern census results from 2015 and 2016, at minimum; include a description of benefits to other beach nesting birds, if applicable); (5) description of non-lethal predator management measures to be implemented (e.g. trash management; note these measures are required but will not be funded through the grant); (6) description of proposed matching funds, if any (although a match is not required, projects proposing a match will receive priority consideration; selective predator management funds being expended as a requirement of a HCP Certificate of Inclusion will not be considered match).

Please note: (1) Final approval of any grant awards for selective predator management will be contingent upon MassWildlife receiving written approval from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service of the site-specific selective predator management scope of work and budget submitted by the applicant. (2) Due to limited availability of funds, MassWildlife may elect to award grants that do not cover the entirety of a given scope of work. As a condition of accepting grant funds, the applicant must agree to fund and carry out the remaining work so that the entire scope of work is implemented.

Increased law enforcement to improve management of pets and other threats

Proposed projects must include a (1) detailed scope of work and budget; (2) detailed description of project need and justification; (3) detailed description of metrics that will be used to measure the efficacy of the program; (4) detailed description of 2017 baseline law enforcement activities to be undertaken in addition to the supplemental work proposed to be funded by the grant (please include these activities in the overall budget); (5) description of the 2016 law enforcement program including information about staffing hours, efficacy, and budget.

Strategic Education and Outreach

Proposed projects must include a (1) detailed scope of work and budget including any proposed match; (2) detailed description of project need and justification including a clear description of how the project will directly benefit breeding piping plovers (and least terns) and lead to on-the-ground conservation outcomes; (3) detailed description of metrics that will be used to measure the efficacy of the program.

Experimental habitat enhancement (e.g., vegetation management)

Proposed projects must include a (1) detailed scope of work, budget, and implementation timeline including project plans and maps, as applicable; (2) detailed description of project need and justification; (3) detailed description of metrics that will be used to measure the efficacy of the program.

Please note: In recognition of the challenges of implementing habitat enhancement projects, including required permitting, MassWildlife will consider funding habitat enhancement projects with implementation extending beyond 2018. All other proposed projects must be completed in 2018.

How to apply

If you are a landowner or beach operator interested in having this work carried out on your property, please submit an application letter and associated supporting materials, as described above, no later than January 5, 2018. Applications should be submitted via email at coastal.waterbirds@state.ma.us. Please include “HCP Conservation Grants 2018” in the subject line. Questions should be directed to Patty Levasseur at the above email or by phone at (508) 389-6382.